

Pennsylvania Association of Numismatists

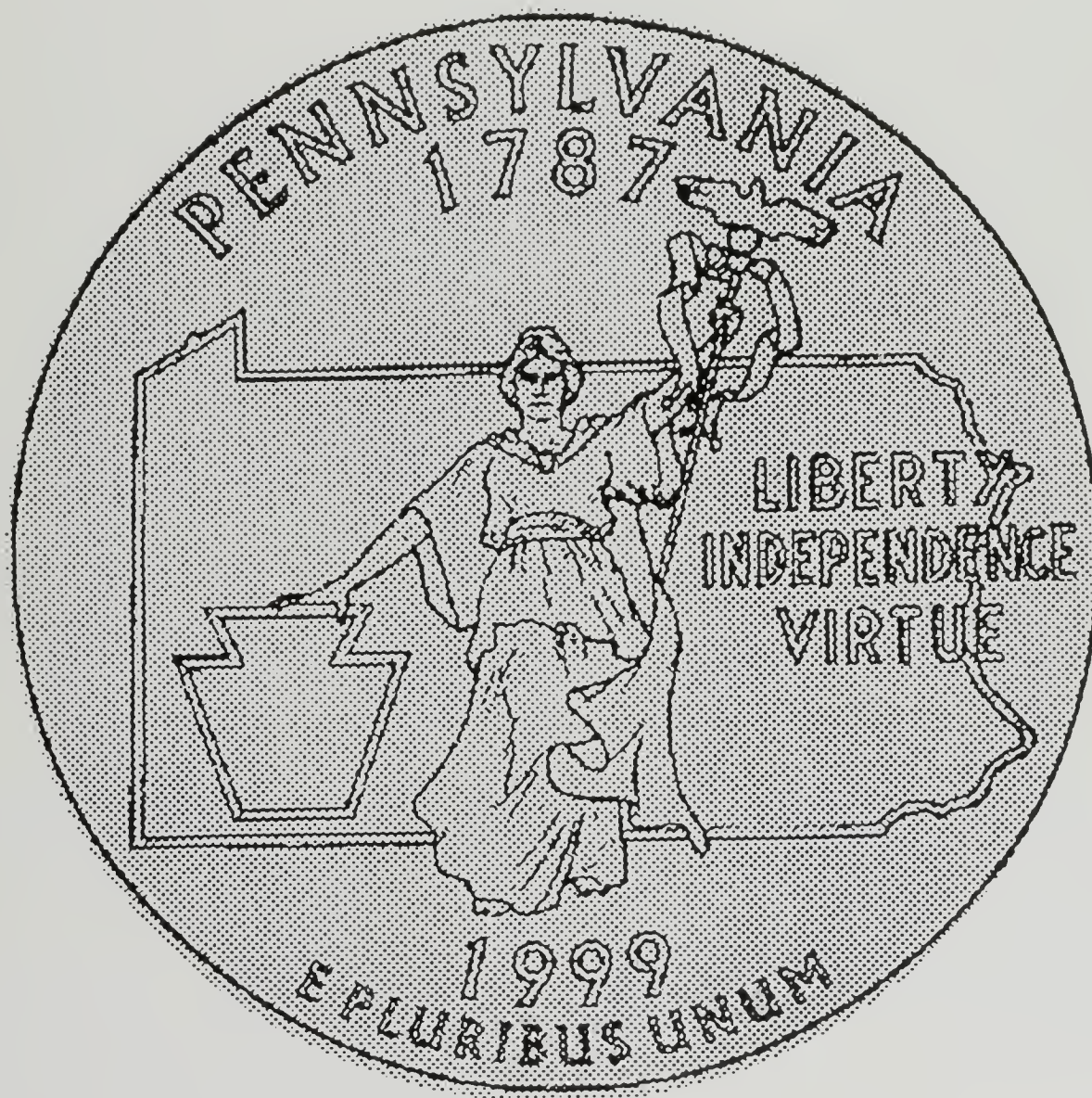


# CLARION

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SEPTEMBER, 1998



THE PENNSYLVANIA QUARTER . . . see page 6



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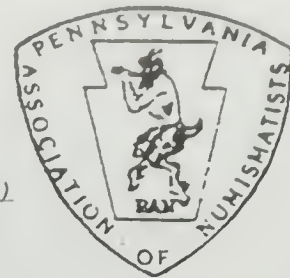


# Pennsylvania Association of Numismatists

State Charter 1984 Corporate #777790 Federal I.D. Tax #25-1519242

Affiliated with the American Numismatic Assn. (C-101441) and Eastern States Numis. Assn. (C-130)

P.O. Box 1079, Lancaster, Pa. 17608-1079



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## *President's Message*

PAN's 20th fall Convention, scheduled for October 23, 24 and 25 at the Expomart in Monroeville, PA is quickly approaching. Mark your calendar, and plan to attend an outstanding Coin Convention.

During PAN's first twenty years, our dream to sponsor a premier convention for numismatists has become a reality. In the beginning, there was simply a coin show. Now, we have two conventions at a very good location, with many quality dealers from all over the country.



Thanks to the many dedicated officers and members of PAN, we are able to continually expand the programs offered at our conventions, including "Coins for Kids," impressive exhibits on a variety of subjects, diverse educational forums, collector club meetings, and a banquet with guest speakers. To this, we have added our "Coins for A's" program, and expanded our raffle to include only gold and platinum coins. Beginning with the last issue of the CLARION, we have upgraded the quality of our publication by changing to coated paper which produces sharper printing and images.

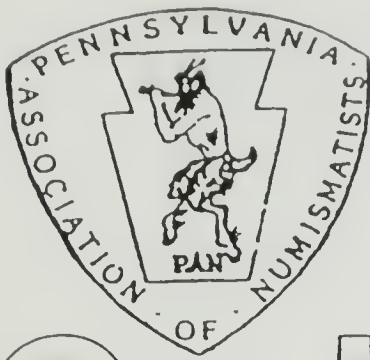
With your help, we can continue to expand PAN. So, get involved. You'll be glad you did.

The end of my second term as President is fast approaching. I'm taking this opportunity to express my thanks to the many members and officers of PAN who have made my tenure an enjoyable experience. Without your expertise and help, PAN would not have grown and become the quality organization we have today.

I congratulate the new officers of PAN, listed on page 8 of this issue. Thanks to you for caring enough about PAN to step forward and help guide our organization into the next millennium.

I hope to see you at coin shows in the near future -- and particularly at the PAN Convention on October 23, 24 and 25.

Sincerely,  
Richard E. Cross  
President



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# Ridge Selects State Version of Quarter

By Jim Strader  
The Associated Press  
Published in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette  
July 2, 1998

## Time for change

No, the new Pennsylvania quarter that will circulate nationwide next year won't feature a road construction barrel and a flag person. Gov. Ridge made his selection yesterday.

HARRISBURG - A keystone, Pennsylvania's motto, its borders and a statue from atop the Capitol dome will represent the state on a new quarter coin to be circulated nationwide next year.

Gov. Ridge selected the design from four ideas prepared by U.S. Mint engravers based on hundreds of submissions from Pennsylvanians. The governor notified U.S. Treasury officials of his choice yesterday.

"He's very proud of this particular drawing," said Lucy M. Gnazzo, the state's liaison to the Mint. "Not only were we able to capture four main elements very representative of the state, but it gives him the opportunity to educate people about the commonwealth."

Pennsylvania will be the second state to be represented on a new coin, after Delaware, to correspond with the order states ratified the U.S. Constitution. Three other states - New Jersey, Georgia and Connecticut - also will have coins minted next year.

More than 600 million coins will be produced bearing each state's design, Gnazzo said. Within 10 years, all 50 states will be represented on the reverse side of the quarter.

Ridge selected his preferred image over three other designs, which also were developed by the Mint. Two of the other rejected designs feature the state bird, a ruffed grouse; and the state flower, the mountain laurel. In one of those, the bird sits on a branch of the state tree, a hemlock. In the other, the bird is shown in flight above a keystone symbol. The third rejected design shows Pennsylvania's founder, William Penn, shaking hands with an American Indian in front of a representation of the state borders, topped by a keystone.

Ridge liked all four proposals, Gnazzo said, but felt the one he chose best.



represented the state

The centerpiece of the coin is "Commonwealth", a 14-foot-6 inch bronze statue placed on top of the state Capitol in 1905. The female figure in a flowing robe holds a symbol of justice in one hand, and her other arm is extended in a gesture of mercy. The statue was removed from the dome in December for restoration and is to be returned to the top of the building in September.

The figure stands before an outline of the state, with the keystone symbol to her right side. On the other side of the figure is the motto, "Virtue Liberty Independence."

The word "Pennsylvania" is at the top of the coin, above the date 1787, when the state ratified the Constitution. At the bottom of the image is the federal Motto "E Pluribus Unum," and the date the coins will be minted, 1999.

The front side of the quarter will be essentially unchanged, showing the profile of George Washington, the words "Liberty" and "In God We Trust." Also on the front of the coin, moved from the back of the quarter as now minted, will be the words, "United States of America" and the value of the coin, "Quarter Dollar."

Final approval of Ridge's selection must come from Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin, who had signed off on all four options, Gnazzo said.



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Additional PAN nominations will be  
accepted until Saturday, October 23.

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AN IMPORTANT LETTER...  
about the plans for a new  
U.S. Silver Dollar  
begins on the next page.  
Sent to the U.S. Secretary  
of the Treasury on June 25,  
it explains why Sacagawea  
clearly would not be the  
best choice for that coin -  
and what would be a more  
appropriate design.

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P.O. Box 144, Pittsburgh, PA 15230



June 25, 1998

Mr. Robert E. Rubin  
Secretary of the Treasury  
Department of the Treasury  
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20220

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N. East: Richard Cross  
S. East: Anthony Almond, Sr.

Attention: Mr. Robert E. Rubin

Subject: Design For New Circulating Dollar Coin

*Secretary*  
Patrick McBride

Dear Secretary Rubin:

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On May 28, 1998, I wrote to you concerning the controversy that was raging over the design of the proposed coin dollar. At that time, I discussed many of the proposals, concepts, versions, and renditions that were emanating out of the pages of the numismatic press. Design ideas expressed, covered many areas of American history ranging from American women astronauts in space, to a revival of the Susan B. Anthony dollar. Women whose names and deeds had been cast into the forefront included Sacagawea, the fourteen year old Indian guide of the Lewis and Clark expedition; Margaret Chase Smith, the first woman United States Senator; Clara Barton, the founder of the American Red Cross; the great humanitarian of the Depression era, Eleanor Roosevelt; and perhaps even the woman who many consider to be one of the most important personages of the twentieth century, Ms. Rachel Carson. Ms. Carson simply may have affected every living and future living creature on this planet with her words of warning and prophecy. Her books, her writings succeed in alerting the public to the dangers of pesticides and insecticides that were poisoning and destroying our biological ecosystem. She became the inspiration for the entire Environmental movement. Her writings were the driving force behind the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency that was established to protect us as citizens of planet earth from the chemical hazards that were being recklessly discarded as byproducts and wastes of our advanced, industrialized society.

One can continue touting the talents, the perseverance, and the intelligence of the women who have made their mark on American history. However, whatever selection that would be made, part of the populace would feel rewarded and blessed, while the remainder would feel neglected and shunned. All of the individuals that I have listed should be honored, praised, and immortalized on the designs of our American coinage. This can best be accomplished by placing them on the obverse side of a commemorative coin.

Any attempt to use as a design, any female figure, either living or dead, as a real or allegorical representation of liberty can only become a blueprint for future paranoia and future controversy. It is of extreme importance that we learn from the lessons and failings of a previous circulating dollar coin design that featured the bust of the world famous American suffragette, Susan B. Anthony.

This design delighted the female members of Congress, women lobbyists, and the women's rights proponents of the Equal Rights Amendment. However, the coin, the design, the actual physical size of the piece was disliked and confusing to a majority of Americans who often passed it off as a twenty-five cent piece. As more pieces were minted, more pieces tended to be stockpiled in coin bags within the vaults of the United States Treasury Department.

The Anthony dollars were collected by a select few coin collectors and fellow numismatists that were basically attempting to complete their dollar series. For the most part these coins were shunned by the American public and did not widely circulate. Finally, and at long last, they were able to find a more utilitarian and commercial usage in vending machines and slot machines that were specifically designed for the purpose of accepting them.

From this bitter experience, it has been determined that placing the representation of a real female figure on the obverse of an American coin, no matter how worthy the individual or their cause, will not be proper or fitting, if we are to expect that the coin and its design will be universally accepted. Please, remember that the Anthony dollars were only minted for a period of three years, beginning in 1979 and ending in 1981. Also remember, that this design was the first time in American history that a real woman, and not a mythical figure had appeared on a circulating United States coin.

It has been written many times and many places that "those that do not learn from the mistakes of past history are condemned to repeat them." With the trials and tribulations of our historical past behind us, we must seek a coin design that best represents America, its past, its future, and its greatness.

To a numismatist, one needs not look any further than a design that has already been created and is ready for the minting process. This design, this “new” dollar sized coin is the original design created by the former Chief Engraver of the United States Mint, Mr. Frank Gasparro.

In the year 1977, when the American public was prepared to accept a new, dollar sized coin, Mr. Gasparro prepared the designs for the obverse and reverse of a piece that he felt would both be historically correct and aesthetically pleasing.

The obverse of the coin depicts a Flowing Hair Liberty design with a Liberty Cap and Pole in the background. Mr. Gasparro adapted the Liberty portrait from the original 1794 large cent design. However, his depiction of Liberty takes on a more modern rendition.

The reverse of the coin depicts a rising American Eagle, that had been nesting on a symbolic sun that also appears to be rising.

This reverse design best represents our American ideals of freedom, liberty, and independence that were first expressed by our founding fathers. It blends with the representation of our new and modern America of today. The reverse design of an American eagle rising out of a rising sun captures our dreams, our hopes, and our aspirations for the future and a bright tomorrow.

The Liberty Cap portion of Mr. Gasparro’s design can be the location where the word “PEACE” is inscribed. This action could best accomplish the dream of former American Numismatic Association president, Mr. Kenneth Bressett to encourage all nations of the world to produce “Peace” 2000 coins as a positive means of welcoming the new millennium.

On June 8, and June 9, of 1998, at a meeting held in Philadelphia, Mr. Bressett convinced the Treasury Department’s Dollar Coin Advisory Committee to recommend to Secretary Robert Rubin that “PEACE” be included as a legend on the new small-sized circulating dollar coin to be issued early in the year 2000.

The word “PEACE” inscribed on the Liberty Cap of Mr. Gasparro’s Liberty design could symbolize the American ideals of liberty, independence, and freedom tempered with the desires of a lasting world peace.

At that early June, 1998 meeting of the Treasury Department’s Dollar Coin Advisory Committee in the auditorium of the Philadelphia Federal Reserve Building, a total of seventeen design concept presentations were delivered from interested members of the public. The programs and design concepts presented, ranged from various forms of allegorical liberty designs to the depiction of real women that included Eleanor Roosevelt, Mary Chase Smith, Jane Adams, Juliette Gordon Low, Susan B. Anthony, Harriet Tubman, Ida B. Wells, Bessie Coleman, Pearl S. Buck, Betsy Ross, Marian Anderson, and Sacagawea.



After much open deliberation and political maneuvering, the "politically correct" solution was finally reached to the satisfaction of a majority of the Dollar Coin Advisory Committee. The new dollar sized coin would have the design of "Liberty represented by a native American woman, inspired by Sacagawea" on the obverse of the piece.

From a purely historical context, to have Sacagawea represent liberty, independence, and freedom would be the ultimate slap in the face for the universal rights of women, their contributions to society in general and to western civilization in particular, and for the equality that they have fought so hard to achieve.

At the tender age of eleven, Sacagawea was captured by a rival Indian tribe, the Hidatsa tribe, and she was taken from her Shoshone family. While in captivity, she was purchased by a French-Canadian trader, Toussaint Charbonneau. Charbonneau made her one of his wives. Being considered as little more than common chattel, she was forced to submit to the demands and the desires of her husband. In the year 1804, at the age of fourteen and already six months pregnant, Sacagawea followed the dictates of her husband and joined with him to lead the Lewis and Clark expedition across the vast western half of our unexplored nation. Skillful in both the ways of nature and man, she was able to teach her leaders the ability to eat off of the land and to proceed peacefully through hostile areas without incident or loss of life.

Although, Sacagawea's abilities led to the general success of the expedition, she did not go of her own free will. Basically, she was a slave following the dictates of the owner/husband that had purchased her. Ten years after the expedition had been completed, Sacagawea died, probably a victim of her arduous life and circumstances.

It should also be noted that no pictures, no drawings and no photographs of Sacagawea were ever made. One receives a short glimpse of her physical characteristics and attributes by reviewing the chronicles of Captains Lewis and Clark. With this knowledge in mind, it would be very difficult for an artist or engraver to design a coin or metal with an accurate lifelike image of Sacagawea.

If you combine the problem of an inaccurate physical representation with an inaccurate representation of liberty, freedom, and independence, you will be creating a vehicle for future criticism, ridicule, and ultimate failure.

Sacagawea, although very important in an historical context, would be a poor choice to be used for the symbol of freedom on our new circulating dollar coin.

It must be reiterated, the best design to represent our symbols of freedom, liberty, and independence, is the design of Mr. Gasparro, the former Chief Engraver of the United States Mint.

Since time is of the essence, and the new circulating dollar coin must be introduced into circulation by January 1, 2000, the Gasparro design also has another built-in advantage.

All of the other designs and concepts will require drawings, reviews, criticisms, the creation of obverse and reverse molds, plaster casts, mechanical reductions, cutting of the dies, trial strikes, and striking of the finished pieces.

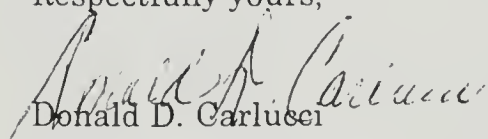
The dies for the Gasparro dollar have already been cut. The dies and the hubs are presently stored in the vaults of the United States Mint in Philadelphia. In a short period of time, probably less than a month, the dies can be adjusted to denote the proper date and mint marks, the word 'PEACE' can be cut into the liberty cap, production can begin, and the coins can be readied for distribution and circulation among the American citizenry and the economic and commercial markets of the world.

I hope that the presentation that I have created will want you to rethink the design selection for the dollar size circulating coin. As an American citizen born, baptized, and raised in a modern nation that expounds upon the virtues of liberty, freedom, and independence, the placing of the hapless image of Sacagawea upon a coin that is to be the metallic personification of all of these sacred values, would be both an injustice to her memory and a sacrilege to the groups of people in which the coin would circulate.

On behalf of the entire membership of the Pennsylvania Association of Numismatists, please consider former Chief Engraver of the United States Mint, Mr. Frank Gasparro's design to be the design to lead us symbolically as a nation into the next millennium.

In closing, thank you for your valuable time and any and all considerations that you will give to this very important matter.

Respectfully yours,



Donald D. Carlusel  
Chairman of the Board  
Pennsylvania Association of Numismatists

DDC/lg

cc: President William Jefferson Clinton  
Beth Deisher, Editor, Coin World Magazine

# *A Jaunt to Portland*

*by Dick Duncan*

The destination was, of course, the Convention of the American Numismatic Association in Portland, Oregon - scheduled for August 4 to 9.

But Betty and I decided, "What the heck! We're retired, so we really ought to make a real trip out of this" (in spite of many ties to church and other organizations in Lancaster, PA). And we could drop in on special attractions along the way.

## An 8-week "Jaunt"

Thus, our own "Oregon Trail" became virtually a two-month "Jaunt to Portland." Did we see Yosemite, the Grand Canyon, Yellowstone Park? No. Been there, done that. But what we did see was truly fascinating.

We left home on July 6, in a car "packed to the rafters" with clothes and food. (We needed garb for hot as well as cold weather - and we saved cash by fixing our own breakfast and lunch on most days.)

We had our route pretty well mapped out, but we really owe a big debt to the American Automobile Assn. (AAA) for mapping the way - and providing books describing highlights in each area, as well as motels.

## A Nod to "Ike"

And anyone driving across this great country owes a big debt to Dwight Eisenhower. Really! Early in his Army career, the future President was with an Army unit that traveled across the country. After that slow, agonizing trip over many poor roads - requiring many weeks - Eisenhower vowed to do all he could to improve the nation's highways. And he did, particularly when he served as President, from 1953-61. In fact, the interstate highway system is now named in his honor.

After arrangements for dog, cat, lawn mowing, mail, newspapers, etc., we hit the road on Monday, July 6, as noted.



### "Air Force One"

Speaking of Presidents, on our second day out, we visited the Air Force Base at Dayton, Ohio - to see the recently-arrived "Air Force One" plane which served as a traveling White House for John F. Kennedy. It then had the sad role of transporting Kennedy's body back to Washington after his assassination in Dallas - and Lyndon Johnson was sworn in as the next President while on board.

That was memorable - but confidentially, the plane was not as spacious and opulent as in the movie, "Air Force One," starring Harrison Ford as the President. We decided Hollywood is never happy with stark reality.

At the beginning - and end - of our trip, we spent a week with Betty's mom in Iowa (still living alone at age 92). It's near Iowa City as well as the Amana Colonies- with folks reminiscent of Lancaster County's Amish.

Next, heading for Carlsbad Caverns, New Mexico, we over-



A tourist steps off "Air Force One" at Wright Patterson A.F.B. Museum nighted at a motel in Oklahoma City, OK. It turned out that our motel was across the road from the Cowboy Hall of Fame. Thus, we had to drop in on that institution. This proved to have many fine exhibits, including paintings and sculptures by famed western artists, Russell and Remington.



"End of the Trail" sculpture at Cowboy Hall of Fame in Okla. City.

We also visited Fort Sill, a historic army fort near Lawton, OK. Nearby, we saw the graves of many Indians, with a pyramid of stones marking the grave of Geronimo, the most famous one at that location.

### Carlsbad Caverns

We drove through the northwest corner of Texas (during a record heat wave in that state), but hurried on to Carlsbad, with enough attractions to warrant a two-day visit. And it was cool in those caverns!



A Golden Eagle, with American Bald Eagle in the background (below).

We spent a morning touring the Living Desert Zoo and

Gardens, where we saw all sorts of flora and fauna (That's flowers and animals, Charlie) of that region. There, I poked my camera through a fence so the photo of eagles looked natural.



It was over 100 degrees that day, so our trip down to the 58 degree climate in the Carlsbad Caverns was even more more delightful. An awesome place.

We walked over a mile in the huge underground caverns - and could have gone farther (but we were kinda weary). In these caverns, most stalactites (above) and stalagmites (below) are no longer growing, so you don't need to worry about getting drips on your head - and it's not likely a big one will fall



on you (thankfully).

After Carlsbad, we had a brief visit at an old stagecoach stop.



Apparently, this tourist was told he should be on the stage, so here he is waiting. (He'll have a long wait!)

Next, after a brief visit with friends in Tempe, Arizona, we spent a week at Palm Desert, California (next to Palm Springs). As you might guess, it was hot there, too. Thank goodness for air conditioning.

### Getting Higher

Excursions from there took us to Mt. Palomar's observatory - great - and a trip on an aerial tram up a mountain at Palm Springs. Looking up from the ground, you'd see the cable car disappear in the distance as it went up - so it was a long trip up (and frankly, kinda scary) -

but we screwed up our courage and hopped on. Yes, the view from the top was marvelous, and at a height of 8,000 feet above sea level, it was also 40 degrees cooler than below.



After the aerial tram ride, looking down from the top of the mountain, Palm Springs (and virtually everything else) seemed to fade away.

Another day took us to San Diego. We had lunch with "the beautiful people" (that means "rich") on the veranda of the Del Coronado Hotel (shown on next page). While dining, we'd see planes come in for a landing at the nearby U.S. Navy base.

Next, we spent the rest of the day at the famous San Diego



Zoo - featuring a plethora of animals from around the world.



The elegant Del Coronado Hotel in San Diego. Yes, we had lunch there. Below, a couple of tourists pose with a friendly gorilla (statue). Incidentally, it was surprising how many people would say, "I'll take the photo, so you can both be in it." Nice.



Naturally, we had to check out the Pandas from China. Male and female are kept in separate cages - or they'd fight. Below, the female snoozes in a tree.



While on a Sky Ride over the top of the Zoo, I caught the photo below - showing the observation tower and State of California building featured at the 1935 California-Pacific Exposition, and seen on the commemorative half dollar of 1935.



Heading north, we happened on a Reagan Presidential Library & Museum in Simi Valley. Very interesting.

### A No-Show

While visiting an aunt near there, we were told there was a coin show in Santa Barbara - so we hunted but never found it. That was on July 24. When we got home, I found it in a show calendar - but scheduled for July 18-19!

At a church service in Santa Maria, CA, the minister's first word was, "Aloha." He had just come back from vacationing - and surfing - in Hawaii. Imagine that - a surfing pastor!

### An Otter Story

Next, we enjoyed a few days with friends in Morro Bay, CA.

There, we saw otters in the ocean. An otter will lie on his back in the water, place a stone on his stomach, and break clams on the stone for his lunch. We also saw friendly seagulls, which (photo-top right) will take a snack right out of

your hand. (No, we didn't know the girl in the photo.)



Enjoyed a marvelous "Eternal China" exhibit at Santa Barbara Museum of Art - including 11 of those life-size terra cotta warriors unearthed recently.

In San Luis Obispo, we attended a great concert at Cal Poly's Performing Arts Center. Named "300 Years of Glass Music," it included sounds made by rubbing a wet finger on top of a water-filled glass - and one instrument (the same principle, but automated) invented by Ben Franklin.

At the Hearst Castle in San Simeon (we had toured previ-



ously), we saw an impressive Imax giant screen movie named "The Living Sea."

Driving up the coast-with spectacular vistas, we reached the Monterey Bay Aquarium for a terrific tour. Just as great as the Baltimore Aquarium!

In San Francisco, we picnicked in the Golden Gate Park - and toured an outstanding art museum (which included two paintings by Lancaster, PA's Charles DeMuth). It also exhibited ancient glassware from the Holy Land - delicate items over 2,000 years old that you'd think just could not survive under the ground for that long.

### A Foggy Bay

An eerie experience as we crossed the Golden Gate Bridge - fog, rolling into the bay, made it impossible to see more than 20 feet ahead. . .but then, after we left the bridge, the weather was sunny and clear once again.

In Mill Valley, we socialized and dined with a nephew, his wife

and one-year old boy. Little Jack is a real cutie!

### Jelly Belly Testing

Next, we had to tour, and taste-test, products at the Jelly Belly factory in Fairfield, California - gourmet jelly beans made famous because they were favorites of Ronald Reagan. The photo shows those same tourists (us) with Mr. Jelly Belly.



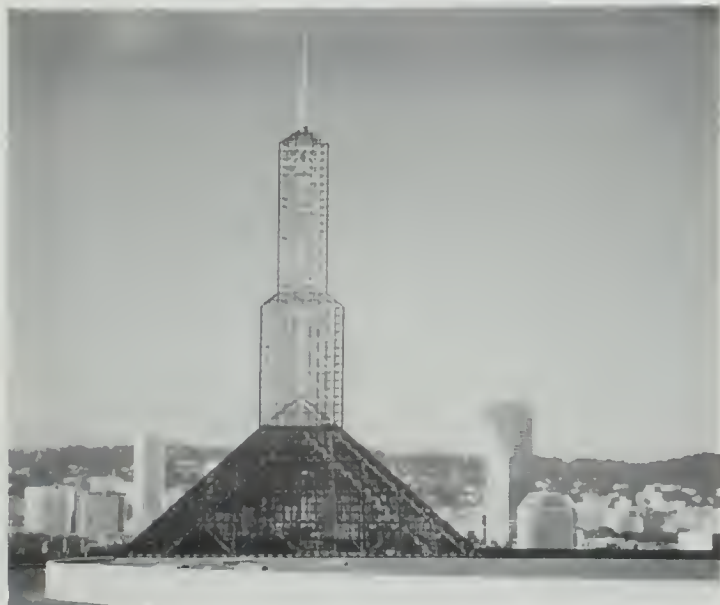
After these adventures, we had an overnight in Yreka, CA (which seems to be pronounced "Why-reeka") and finally did reach Oregon. Before Portland, however, we had to make a stop at Crater Lake - with the bluest water you ever saw.

### Portland!

Portland is a beautiful city on the northern edge of the state (adjoining Washington), named



“The City of Roses.” We were in a hotel across the street from the Convention Center, which is topped by twin towers (one below, as seen from our room).



### The A.N.A. Convention

On our first day at the Convention, Betty and I took an ANA tour of Portland—which included marvelous rose gardens and a Japanese garden that’s undoubtedly the best one east of Japan. And downtown was this statue of “Portlandia” (below).



PA exhibitors at the show included Wayne Homren, John Eshbach, Jerry Kochel and Dick Duncan. Here are winners:



Jerry Kochel, 1st place winner in U.S.Coins, is flanked by Chief Judge Joe Boling (left), ANA Pres. Anthony Swiatek and ANA V.P. Scott Travers.



Dick Duncan, 1st place winner in U.S. gold coins, is flanked by Chief Judge Joe Boling, ANA Pres. Swiatek and Kay Lenker of the ANA Board.

Jerry Kochel’s first-place exhibit in U.S. coins showed errors and mis-strikes on Half Cents. Dick Duncan displayed U.S. gold coins picturing Indians, which got him a first-place award.

John Eshbach exhibited literature, and won a third place in that category.



From left: Chief Judge Boling, ANA Pres. Swiatek, ANA Board member Helen Carmody and John Eshbach, the 3rd place winner in literature.

Wayne Homren arrived late at the Convention, so his exhibit couldn't qualify for an award. Another award winner, however, was Jules Reiver. Pictured with his wife at the end-of-show banquet (below), Jules received a President's Award from ANA Pres. Swiatek.



The Convention also featured many educational sessions in the "Numismatic Theater," another "World Series of Numismatics" quiz contest (similar in format to TV's "Jeopardy"), as well as an auction of fantastic coins by Heritage Numismatic Auctions, Inc. held in four sessions - mostly evenings.

### \$13 Million from Auctions

The Heritage auction pulled in record bucks. The firm held another auction just prior to the ANA show, and that, coupled with the Convention auction, took in almost \$13 million!

The show as a whole was also a big success - attracting approximately 10,000 people, about the same size as the crowd in New York City a year ago. Many dealers were afraid Portland would be a "bust" - but the success of this show would seem to prove that ANA Conventions don't have to be limited to the largest cities in the country.

### Too Much Fun!

The primary trouble with all ANA shows, in my opinion: There is so much going on that



it's literally impossible to attend everything you'd like to. . .and the week seems to go by much too fast! Of course, that's also the attraction of such shows -- they offer more than enough excitement for everyone!

Because I had a car there, I gave John Eshbach and Jerry Kochel a ride to the airport at the end of the show. When I said Betty and I wouldn't be home until the end of August, Jerry replied, "I wouldn't have enough money to do that." (He's a great kidder.)

I said, "Well, the credit cards are getting kind of hot from overuse." (No kidding!)

### Egyptian Splendors

Then, we saw a great exhibition, "Splendors of Ancient Egypt," at the Portland Art Museum.

On Sunday evening, August 9, we saw the opening ceremonies of the World Masters Games in Portland - a sports event that attracts more athletes than the Olympics. And we spent most of another day at "OMSI" -

which stands for the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry. There, you see remarkably life-like exhibits of cave men...films at another of those fantastic OMNI theaters (We saw a climb up Mount Everest)...a planetarium...and you could tour a Navy submarine, the U.S.S. Blueback (which was featured in the film, "The Hunt for Red October").



One of the many pioneer groups shown at the Oregon Trail Museum.

Heading east, we found a terrific museum honoring the Oregon Trail, at Baker City, OR. Here, life-like figures illustrated the hardships of that journey, and audio programs would explain each step of the way.

When you consider such a trip, 2,000 miles through the wild-



erness of our frontier - from the "jumping off" point of St. Joseph, Missouri - it's really hard to imagine.



A pioneer family at the Oregon Trail Museum. Confidentially, the one on the right may be from PA.

### The Oregon Trail

We in 1998 have fast, reliable cars and superhighways to make such a trip, over (or through) mountains and across deserts. But they weren't even sure of the best route -- contending with seemingly unsurmountable mountains, days and days when water was scarce and the only people to greet them were the unpredictable, savage Indians.

As wagons broke down or got stuck in mud, they'd have to

abandon prized possessions.... their food would go bad....and illness could wreak havoc on the sturdiest pioneers. In fact, those who did survive the trip had to observe the bones and graves of unlucky predecessors all along the way.



Erected by the Baker City, OR Kiwanis Club in 1943, this obelisk has a circular plaque (about 12" in diameter) that shows the Frasers' covered wagon design exactly as it is on the 1926 Oregon Trail Memorial Commemorative Half Dollar.

In Twin Falls, Idaho, we had a picnic lunch within sight of

waterfalls that rival Niagara - although at this time of year they are not quite so spectacular because a lot of water is diverted to fields for irrigation.



We found these falls in the Snake River Canyon, at Twin Falls, Idaho.

After Twin Falls, we went south through Salt Lake City, Utah. The AAA had advised us to go around the city, and we certainly found out why. The place is all torn up with road construction - and it will be so for four years, as it's being done in anticipation of the Winter Olympics, coming to that city in 2002! However, we did see a pleasant 50s comedy on stage at a small theater in the round, south of town. "Love

and Kisses" was the name. We weren't sure we'd get tickets until the last minute, but then we had seats in the front row (practically in the play).

### Range Fires!

In eastern Utah, we drove by the unnerving sight of wild fires on the range. The highway had been closed as a result, earlier, but we got through all right. Incidentally, in several western states, road signs told us to look out for high winds or dust storms, etc., but luckily we didn't encounter them.

Other attractions included a stop at a prehistoric museum in Price, at the College of Eastern Utah. There we saw bones and reconstructions of dinosaurs, near where they were dug up.

We were headed for the Arches National Park, also in Utah - one more point of national interest that we had not yet seen on previous travels west.

### Arches National Park

Having slept in a nearby motel, we could spend most of the next day at Arches - and it was well worth it. Red rock forma-



tions that had been eroded and formed into arches and other amazing formations over the span of centuries.



One of many impressive vistas at the Arches National Park in Utah.

We also had a picnic lunch in the park, and found that animals such as coyotes and mule deer are very approachable. In fact, one deer decided it might be allowed to share our lunch - so it licked Betty's hand. It was disappointed, in this case, however, because we'd been told you should not feed the wildlife.



Why? The animals begin to depend on people for their food, and may not survive the winters when they can't mooch a meal from tourists.

### High Again

Next stop was Colorado - where we were scheduled for a week in a time-share condo in Avon, next to Vail. Living at 8,000 feet above sea level took some getting used to - with sleep somewhat fitful in the thin air, at least for a night or two. Then, we took a train at Leadville, which went up another 2,000 feet to gold mining areas. That's about 2 miles up, Charlie (Twice as high as Denver)! As you'd expect, the temperature drops as you travel higher into the mountains - so it was good we had brought along jackets.



The Leadville, Colorado & Southern Railroad, great fun for tourists.



The Gerald Ford family would spend vacation time in Vail, and there we found a beautiful spot named The Betty Ford Alpine Garden. The altitude means they have different types of flowers, and the peak time for seeing all of them is about mid-July.

We also found time to see a rodeo at a nearby ranch. . .and then enjoyed another picnic in the mountains - this time with relatives from the Denver area.

### End of the Trail

Finally, our "trip of a lifetime" reached Kansas City, where we relaxed with a boyhood friend and his wife. They took us to see a remarkable exhibit in downtown K.C. - a paddle-wheel "treasure ship" that had sunk in the Missouri River in 1856, and was recently recovered. But that's another story.

We again spent a few days with Betty's Mom in Iowa, before driving the final 1,000 miles to Lancaster, PA. We reached home on the last day of August. How many miles did we travel during those eight weeks? We

were surprised to find it was a total of 9,182 miles - particularly when we know the U.S. is just 3,000 miles from coast to coast.

We're grateful that our car had performed without a twitch or tremble. Didn't even need any oil or water along the way. It was a marvelous trip, but as Dorothy said in "The Wizard of Oz," we had to agree that, "There's no place like home." Amen.

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# A Treasure Ship

...recovered in fresh water

by Dick Duncan

You have heard - and read about - sailing ships, laden with treasure, that went down in the oceans - and several have been found and salvaged. But this is the story of a ship in fresh water.

Paddlewheel steamboats traveled the great rivers in this country more than a hundred years ago, transporting all sorts of goods to inland towns.

But it was a risky sort of travel. The routes of major rivers such as the Mississippi and Missouri would constantly be changing, as banks would erode and the path of the river would be altered. That also meant big trees would topple into the river, becoming dangers to every craft. In fact, steamboats might only be in business for a few years - as stumps, logs and other floating (or underwater) debris could punch a deadly hole in a wooden hull. That frequently happened.

## The Steamboat Arabia

The sidewheeler, Arabia, was such a boat that steamed the Missouri River in 1856. Built in Brownsville, PA, the 171-foot-long Arabia was loaded in St. Louis, with 200 tons of brand-new merchandise - including European dishware, jewelry, guns, tools, food products and clothing items - for customers and stores in frontier towns.

It was late August, 1865. The heavily-loaded boat made good time steaming up the Missouri River, reaching Kansas City in less than a week. The trip, so far, had been uneventful, but before sunset on September 5, the steamboat and all of its valuable cargo would disappear.



Imagine the treasure trove that might be revealed - of goods important to people before the Civil War - if this steamboat could be found, and salvaged! That's just what was on the minds of several businessmen in that area, in the 1980s.

## Passengers Saved

They studied the history of the boat, and where it might be located. Part of a tree, floating just under water, had been the cause of the disaster. The passengers and crew had been saved. In fact, there were no fatalities - except for an unlucky mule, which went down with the ship.

## Under a Farm!

In 1888, an old map of the river helped to pinpoint the Arabia's location-a surprising spot. Because of changes in the river over the years, it was now a half mile from the present river - buried under a farmer's field in Kansas!

Metal detectors were used to locate the



boilers, so they knew where to dig. But, after digging down 45 feet - and reaching the boat - water filled the hole. They used pumps, and then more pumps, to keep ahead of the water as they continued digging. It got to be more expensive than they had expected.

### **Special Problems**

And recovering items in fresh water proved to be more difficult than in the ocean. Wood and other items would simply crumble to dust as the air dried them out. There were very few "experts" in this kind of salvage. But they did find people who knew how to do it - in Europe.

One secret: Soak items such as wood and leather in polyethylene glycol, which would permeate the material and give solidity to the original cells. They also found it necessary to keep items stored in water after being recovered - until they could be treated properly so they wouldn't disintegrate.

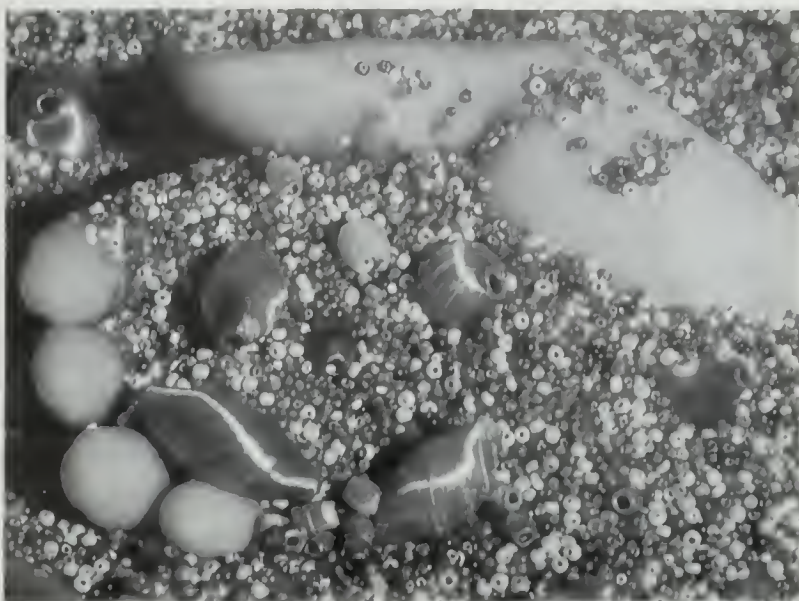
### **A Winter Project**

And most of the salvage work was done in the winter. This might seem strange, but it was done so the farmer could continue to till his fields during the summer months.

Now, the bulk of the salvaged treasures can be seen in downtown Kansas City, in a museum built for this purpose. The items include valuable sets of tableware, dishes, glassware, tools, guns, jewelry, medical supplies, boots and shoes, as well as fine clothing.

### **Pre-Civil War Treasures**

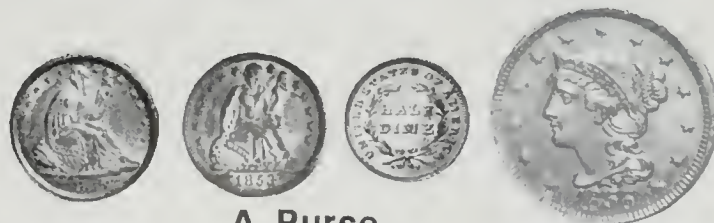
In fact, this is the largest hoard of pre-Civil War goods that has ever been recovered - a virtual "looking glass" into the way people lived way back at a time when the President was Franklin Pierce. . . and



**Thousands of buttons, as well as beads (to be used as barter with Indians?) were among treasures of the steamboat Arabia, nothing traveled faster than a horse - or a steamboat.**

For a small admission fee, you can see it all, plus a movie telling about the salvage operations. In fact, one of the men who did the recovery is generally there - to add details and answer your questions.

Yes, I had a question. As a numismatist, I wanted to know if there was money included in the "treasures" recovered from the Arabia. The answer: While there was gold in items such as tableware and jewelry, there was almost no money recovered -- probably because most cash was with the passengers, as they were saved from a watery grave.



### **A Purse**

A small leather purse was recovered, however, and it contained exactly 26 cents -- made up of two dimes, a half-dime and a large cent, dated 1856.



I looked over those coins, on display - and the silver coins were very dark (probably due to the leather in the purse, more than their being under water for 132 years). The 1856 cent looked nice, though, apparently grading Extra Fine. Today, that one coin would be worth about \$30.

### Pay on Riverboats

Speaking of money, the exhibit also showed what some monthly salaries were for steamboat employees in 1856. A Mate would be paid \$150 per month. A Clerk and an Engineer would receive the same pay. A Captain would receive \$200 a month. The "big bucks" would go to a Pilot, however - \$300 a month. That's the person who would help guide the boat around reefs and other dangers - making sure (usually) it stayed afloat.

Actually, most of these salaries sound pretty good, considering the value of money in 1856.

And the exhibit showed a wine list. For example, Pittsburgh ale or porter would be sold for 25 cents. Table claret - 75 cents. A bottle of Madiera would be \$2.

### "Mad as a Hatter"

Another fascinating fact I learned: One item of headgear recovered was a beaver hat - a very popular item at that time, partly because the fur of a beaver was very dense, and waterproof. However, in making the hats, they would use mercury. That proved to be a dangerous chemical - causing mental illness among workers. Thus, they got the term "Mad as a Hatter."

So, if you happen to be passing through Kansas City, MO in the near future, I recommend that you stop in at the City Market, and visit the museum featuring the steamboat, Arabia. It's well worth it.

## Show Calendar

Sept. 16-20 - Strasburg, PA - Paper Money Collectors Show, Historic Strasburg Inn, Rte. 896.

Sept. 19, 20 - Indiana, PA - Indiana Coin Club Show, Best Western Univ. Inn, 1545 Wayne Av., Rt. 119 S.

Sept. 19, 20 - Lancaster, PA - Red Rose Coin Club Show, Farm & Home Center, Rte. 72 at Rte. 30.

Sept. 26 - Harrisburg, PA - Harrisburg Coin Club Show, River Rescue Hdqrs., 1119 S. Cameron Street.

Sept. 27 - Corry, PA - Corry Coin Club Show, Moose Club, East Washington

Oct. 10 - Reading, PA - Daniel Boone Coin Club Show, Lincoln Park Fire Co., 310 Fritztown Rd. at New Kirk Avenue.

Oct. 23, 24, 25 - Monroeville, PA - PAN CONVENTION, Pittsburgh Expo Mart, Business Route 22 (PA Turnpike Exit 6).

Nov. 7 - Hanover, PA - Hanover Numismatic Society Show, Elks Lodge, 47 Forney Ave.

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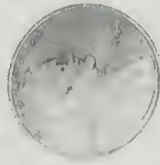
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